

The Tilton House  
Near Walnford, Upper Freehold Township  
Monmouth County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-484

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer  
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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The Tilton House  
Near Walnford, Upper Freehold Township  
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Owner (and occupant): Mrs. Julia B. Tilton

Date of Erection: 1826-1830

Architect: Unknown

Builder: Abraham Tilton Jr. (1790-1866)

Present Condition: Excellent

Number of Stories: Two and garret and cellar in  
main unit, one and one-half in  
leanto annex

Materials of Construction:

Foundation - stone masonry

Exterior walls - brick

Interior walls - brick party wall and  
frame partitions plastered

Chimneys - brick, built in "bridge" fashion  
into inside of gable end walls

Roof - gable on main unit, modern rubberoid  
roofing paper; pitch on leanto, tin  
covered

Historical Data:

The identity of the original owner of this fine example of early 19th century country mansion has been discovered by search of title in the County records, reported as follows:

In his will dated 19 August 1823, John Ellis of Monmouth County ordered his executors to sell all of his real estate. Accordingly, by deed of 1st March 1826, the said executors of John Ellis

deceased conveyed to Abraham Tilton Jr. (a) of Upper Freehold Township, in consideration of \$10,583.65, part thereof, a tract of 192.43 acres there, describing it as bounded southwest by the road from Shelltown to Arneytown and northeast by Crosswicks Creek. The formally balanced plan of the house, the bridge chimneys in the gable ends and the profiles and scale of wood details all testify to its erection about 1826-1830 and accordingly, the honor is assigned to the grantee of its land in that year, 1826.

By his will dated 30 June 1862 and proved 23 October 1866,\* Abraham Tilton above-said, devised unto his (youngest) son George W. Tilton and his heirs and assigns "all my homestead farm or plantation situated between the village of Shelltown (Ellisdale) and Walnford, it being the remainder of the farm I purchased of Samuel Ellis and Peter Ellis, executors of John Ellis deceased," being about 100 acres.

(a) Abraham Tilton Jr., b. 25 Nov. 1790, d. 7 Oct. 1866, son of Abraham and Elizabeth (Rogers) Tilton of New Hanover Twp., Burlington Co. He mar. 13 Jan. 1814 Martha Meirs, b. 22 Dec. 1794, d. 7 Aug. 1878, dau. of Apollo and Unity (Shinn) Meirs, and had issue, viz., Apollo M. 1814-1886, Elizabeth wife of Chas. R. Ellis Jr., Abraham, Unity wife of Nicholas Waln, William 1823-1885, John M., Sarah A. wife of Asher Borden, Lawrence, Mary A. wife of Jos. Wright, Caroline wife of Gilbert H. Warden, and George William of whom further. (J.E. Stillwell, Historical and Genealogical Miscellany, Vol. V, p. 171).

\* Ocean Co. Will Bk. 1, p. 274

George William Tilton<sup>(b)</sup> the youngest son and devisee of the paternal homestead as abovesaid, held the same until 14 September 1901, on which date he and his wife Anna, of Upper Freehold Township (and supposedly occupying the house) conveyed the farm of 102.78 acres, "with all and singular the houses, buildings, trees, ways, waters", etc., to Elmer Clifton Searles of Chester Township, Morris County, for \$4,111.20. This grantee conveyed it to Anna M. Tilton of Upper Freehold by deed of 11 October following, and she in turn conveyed it to Julia B. Tilton of the same place by her deed of 15 March 1924, which Mrs. Tilton remains as owner and occupant of the house at the time of our survey thereof in June 1938.

Bibliography:

Search of title in Land and Probate records of Monmouth and Ocean Counties by Forrest N. Hargrove, H.A.B.S. abstractor, reported 15 April 1940

Leers D. Cook  
Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams  
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F.A.I.A.  
District Officer

(b) George William Tilton, of Upper Freehold Twp., Mon. Co., b. 5 May 1837 at Ellisdale, youngest son of Abraham and Martha (Meirs) Tilton, mar. 5 Dec. 1866 Annie M. Sexton of Crosswicks and had issue, viz., Frank b. 1868, Addie P. 1869, Clara A. 1871 and J. Royal 1873. (Stillwell, cited above, page 188).